

c. REMARKS – AMENDMENT A

Regarding the rejection under 35 A.S.C. 112, Applicants have amended Claim 11 so as to eliminate the basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102, lines 24-28 of Applicants' Claim 1 and lines 31-33 of Applicants' Claim 11 have been amended to contain the positive limitation that the reducing gas employed in the regeneration step in Applicants' claimed process must contain less than 0.5 part per million of carbon monoxide.

Consistent with this, Applicants specification on page 28, line 18, to page 29, line 8 contain Examples 13-17 which illustrates very clearly that regeneration of the bed of adsorbent in the presence of a reducing catalyst containing a substantial amount of carbon monoxide has a much smaller average adsorption capacity of only 0.128 milliliter of acetylene per milliliter of adsorbent relative to the same aforesaid regeneration in the presence of a reducing gas which is free of a substantial amount of carbon monoxide.

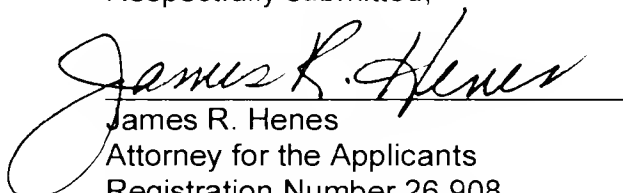
By contrast, Kaminsky et al. contains no such disclosure or suggestion and clearly does not appreciate the criticality of not using a reducing gas containing a substantial amount of carbon monoxide. In fact, Kaminsky et al. contains one example, Example 3, in columns 15 and 16 that employs tail gas containing 300 parts per million of carbon monoxide as the reducing gas in the corresponding regeneration step, and demonstrates the acceptability of such reducing gas. Kaminisky et al. goes on in lines 54-63 in column 16 to state that a reducing gas containing 100 to 500 parts per million of carbon monoxide can be effectively used.

Applicants are enclosing herewith a terminal disclaimer to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

In view of the above amendment and remarks and the enclosed terminal disclaimer, Applicants respectfully submit that their Claims 1-20 are allowable, and reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

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